1 (Open court, 12:00 p.m.) 2 THE CLERK: Today is Friday, June 1, 2018. The time is 12 p.m. The case is United States of America versus Patrick 3 4 D. Angelo, case No. 18-CR-51. We're here today for a 5 sentencing. May we have appearances for the record, please. 6 MR. GESTRING: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Craig 7 Gestring, Assistant United States Attorney, with Sean Eldridge, 8 Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of New 9 York appearing for the United States, Your Honor. Good 10 afternoon, Judge. 11 THE COURT: Good afternoon. 12 MS. BIANCO: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Randi Bianco 13 on behalf of Patrick Angelo, who is seated at my right. Also present are his parents and his grandmother. 14 THE COURT: Good afternoon to all of you. 15 16 Do both the government and the defense have the final 17 Presentence Report dated April 30, 2018, and the addendum dated 18 May 22, 2018? MS. BIANCO: Yes, Your Honor. 19 20 MR. GESTRING: Judge, we do. We received both and 21 reviewed both. 22 THE COURT: Thank you. Have you shared those reports 23 with your client, Ms. Bianco? 24 MS. BIANCO: Yes, I have. 25 THE COURT: Thank you. The record should reflect that

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1 I have carefully reviewed those reports. I have reviewed all 2 the submissions by counsel. In addition, I have reviewed 3 letters from the following: The Reverend James Adams, Dennis Angelo, David and Dorothy Angelo, Teresa Angelo, Lottie Angelo, 4 5 LaVeda Bailey, Rick and Pam Banas, Ryan Betts, Molly Carlini, 6 Laura Cheek, Pat Collins, a letter from Dr. Zachary Cordero, 7 David Kiley, Steve Palumbo, Craig and Monica Schwegman, Paul Salce, Wendra and James Trowbridge, and a letter from Tasha 8 9 Williams, and Jesse Kenas Collins.

I have also gone back and reviewed the psychological report from Dr. Lazzaro which I have been supplied previously in this case when there was a request made about continuing detention.

Does the government have any objections to the facts, the offense level calculation, or the criminal history as set forth in the PSI?

MR. GESTRING: Judge, we do not.

THE COURT: Thank you. Does the defense have any objections to the facts, the offense level, or the criminal history as set forth in the Presentence Report?

MS. BIANCO: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you. Does the government wish to say anything before I impose sentence?

MR. GESTRING: Yes, Judge, thank you. Judge, I think in our sentencing submission and in the previous arguments made

with respect to detention and the argument again that we filed in our detention response, we set forth the facts that back in October 2017, specifically October 19, the defendant made a direct threat to kill Congressman John Katko and his family. The death threat specifically linked the performance of the Congressman's duty to the death threat.

Judge, I think we've previously provided the Court with a copy of the recording and we've provided counsel and we used it at a detention hearing, but I think it's important, Judge, to consider the actual audio of the threat, not just the text of it. And that is that the words themselves are significant, but it's the delivery of that that is the chilling part to this, Judge, and I will play it at this point.

(Audio played.)

MR. GESTRING: Judge, as the Court is aware, the call was placed on one day and wasn't received on that day by the Congressman's staff. There was a short delay prior to them processing their voicemail.

However, Judge, significantly, the minute they received that, it was immediately perceived to be a direct threat to kill the Congressman and was immediately reported to law enforcement initially in the persona of the United States Capitol Police, who began the threat investigation. They reported it to the FBI both in Washington, and then in the course of the investigation, Your Honor, it was identified that

the call had come from a cellular telephone that was registered out of the Western District of New York. The FBI in the Western District got involved. They were able to identify this defendant as the person who placed that call. He was then identified to be residing in the Northern District, which is what brought the case back here, Judge.

But in addition to the Capitol Police and the FBI
being involved, based on the nature of the threat and based on
the Congressman's travel and his professional obligations and
responsibilities with Congress here in the district, additional
law enforcement agencies were also involved including the New
York State Police, the Camillus Police, Syracuse Police
Department, and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, all of
whom were called in to provide additional security when the
Congressman was here in the district.

When Mr. Angelo was interviewed by the FBI, Your
Honor, he met them in a Syracuse McDonald's. Initially when
they spoke to him, they called him on that same phone which had
made the threat. He wouldn't give them an address where he was,
but he ultimately agreed to meet them at a local McDonald's in
Syracuse.

He had told the agents that he doesn't like the police, but especially the FBI, and he doesn't trust him, his quote, "as far as he can throw them." He initially, Judge, denied placing the call to the Congressman and went further than

that saying he definitely did not make the call and he does not involve himself in politics. Those were lies, Judge.

He then further -- the agents engaged him in a discussion about net neutrality, and only in the context of that did he then eventually say, "Yes. I in fact did call somebody." He initially lied to them again by saying, "I don't know whose office I called," which strains credibility when you consider the person he ended up calling was his Congressman. So it wasn't just a random number that he dialed. He specifically reached out to his legislative representative in order to make this threat.

He then said that he used strong language that could be construed as a threat, and he ultimately concluded, "I'm sure they didn't appreciate it." That's certainly an understatement, Judge.

Judge, in the defendant's statement, there's a section that's titled "alcohol played a significant role in the offense." Essentially, the entire section tries to use phrases like the defendant made a spur-of-the-moment decision and that he still only has a vague recollection of the call, essentially trying to mount some kind of involuntary intoxication defense. But the defendant's actions, Judge, clearly his actions, his statements, and his word choice don't support this argument.

First off, the call wasn't made in the middle of the night. It was made at 7:50 on a Thursday night. He made a

cold, calculated threat to hunt down and murder the Congressman and his family in the course of that phone call.

The Court heard that call. The Court is familiar with the text of that call. It is articulate, it is eloquent, and it is chilling. He's not talking -- it's not a slurred, drunk call. He's not talking about spaceships or pineapples. He is specifically achieving the goal which he intended, which is to deliver a direct threat to a United States Congressman coupled with a discussion about net neutrality.

In the context of that threat, Judge, there's five sentences that are an articulate, well thought out argument about net neutrality. That's in stark contrast to the defense of, "I was so drunk. I didn't know what I was doing." He used words like progeny, literally wipe you off from the face of the earth. Again this is not the words of a 2 a.m. drunk call.

Judge, I would like to address the letters that were referred to by the Court. There were a total of 19 letters of support, and that includes the one provided yesterday, that was filed yesterday, Judge. In fact, when I went through, I actually made a chart of all of the letters, and specifically, Your Honor, I was looking for several things. I was looking for any mention of the current charges. I was looking for any mention of alcohol and any use of alcohol. I was looking for any references to how out of character this behavior, these criminal charges here in federal court were with what the letter

writers knew about this defendant.

mentioned the reasons that we're here today, that is the threat call. There was only one letter that talked about the actual charges, and that was from his former landlord, and at best, that was a tangential mention when the landlord, and this is document 31, page 23, says, "I don't know what else I can tell you except to say that he did something very stupid and it was a bad judgment call. However, I can personally say he is not malicious in any way, and I know he regrets ever making the call."

That's as close as anyone in those 19 letters gets to acknowledging why we're here, why we're here in federal court, and what this Court should take away under the 3553(a) sentencing factors with respect to this defendant. Nobody even comes close to talking about the facts, Judge, and nobody, not one single letter talks or mentions the word alcohol or talks about alcohol use. That is significant, Your Honor.

The letter that was filed yesterday, May 31, from a person who indicates -- from Jesse Collins, who is a close friend and says they stay connected to this day. Not one of those mentions any use of alcohol, any episodes with alcohol, any problems with alcohol, nothing. He would not have done this but for the fact that he was drunk, nothing. It's completely silent, Judge, and that's significant because to the extent the

Court considers those letters under the 3553(a) factors, I think the basis of knowledge and the relevance to the sentencing is important, Your Honor.

The defendant would have you believe that he drinks so much and so regularly that at 7:50 on a Thursday in October, he was so drunk, he didn't realize that he dialed his Congressman and threatened to murder him and his family. However, that is completely inconsistent with everything else. Nobody ever mentions alcohol. Nobody mentions any other instances that are similar to this.

guidance to this Court as to who this man is today. They don't provide any guidance to this Court as to who this man was in October 2017 when he threatened to hunt down and murder the Congressman and his family. They're a redacted picture of who we have. They're very eloquent, and I'll be honest with you, Judge. They're very heartfelt. You can tell that the people who wrote these letters clearly love and support this defendant. That's not an issue. They may well have been told not to say certain things, but they provided nothing for this Court about who this defendant is today, and that's what important.

Everybody talks about his work at the Cheesecake

Factory, at Apnea Care. Obviously he's a gifted and talented

singer, did some traveling, but it stops. It stops short at the

important time of October of 2017, and they don't provide any

window into who this defendant is then, or more importantly,

Judge, and more significantly, who he is today. Not one letter

says, "I did not -- totally this is out of character with him.

We did not see this coming. It was only the evils of alcohol

that made him do this." Not one letter out of 19, Judge.

The Court's gotten character letters before. The

Court gets these letters all the time. In preparing for this, I

was thinking what would I put in a letter if somebody asked me.

We all get requests for reference letters or for recommendation

letters, and the first question is, "Why do you need this

letter? What is the purpose of this? Who is this going to?"

So that we can structure that response in such a way to be

effective in that letter, and none of these letters address why

we're here today, Judge.

We heard a lot about the choir. We heard a lot about his singing. He's clearly a great grandson, but that is not relevant to this proceeding because we don't know who he is for purposes of sentencing when it comes down to that. Judge, that's important. That's significant.

Ultimately, Your Honor, we ask that you review the 3553(a) sentencing factors and in considering the nature and circumstances of the offense, the history of the defendant, including the seriousness of what he did, and the need for the sentence imposed, Judge, specifically to reflect the seriousness of this offense.

Not to oversell it, but this type of crime undercuts and undermines the very fabric of democracy. By threatening to kill a United States Congressman directly related to an issue before the government, that challenges everything, Judge. And it wasn't just a threat to kill the Congressman, but he brought the family in. I will hunt you down and murder you. I will hunt you down and murder your family. Judge, that is the most serious crime you can think of.

And there's certainly a need to promote the respect for the law here as well as to promote both a general deterrence and a specific deterrence. He should be specifically deterred, and I think the Court can fashion a sentence that will do so. But there also needs to be a message of general deterrence, Your Honor, which is to say that we don't tolerate this in society, that we are a free society, and the First Amendment guarantees you the right to say just about anything. What you cannot do is you cannot call a United States Congressman, threaten to hunt him down, threaten to murder him, and threaten to murder his family for doing his job.

Judge, we would ask, as we set forth in our papers, for a sentence which is at least at the high end of the guidelines, which are four to ten months; a maximum period of supervised release, during which extensive supervision should be offered to include mental health treatment; and specifically, Judge, a condition with no contact whatsoever with the

Congressman, with his family, or with his office. To the extent that the defendant remains within the Northern District and he still has congressional responsibilities for this defendant, the government is requesting that any prior contact with the Congressman be done through probation so that they can vet it, insure there's no future contacts.

To the extent the defendant relocates, and it's our understanding there may be relocation discussion about maybe moving back in with the parents within the Western District. At that point, Judge, there would be a termination of responsibilities between the defendant and the Congressman. The Congressman would no longer be his representative. So we would again say no contact whatsoever with the Congressman, his family, or his office.

Judge, obviously a condition which would prohibit any type of acts or threats of violence. Judge, we think this is an appropriate sentence and this is the necessary sentence in this case. Thank you.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

MS. BIANCO: Your Honor, Patrick is 28 years old, and he comes from a very supportive family. His parents have made every court appearance. Today they're here. They're here with his grandmother. Patrick has no criminal record.

Now, probation has calculated the advisory guideline range for four to ten months imprisonment, and as of today,

Patrick has served almost seven months of incarceration. And this is someone who has never been to jail before, and this was quite an eye-opener for him.

We're asking for a sentence of time served plus probation because we believe that sentence is sufficient but not greater than necessary to achieve the statutory purposes of sentencing.

I'd like to talk a little bit about the nature and circumstances of the offense, as did the government. Now, Patrick called the Congressman's office at night after he had been drinking. The office was closed. You can tell by the voice message itself -- we just heard it again -- that he's speaking very slowly. His words are somewhat slurred. He left a threatening message on the voicemail, and it cut off before he was actually finished. He was intoxicated. He didn't call back and try to complete the threat, but being intoxicated doesn't negate the seriousness of the offense, but this Court should consider Patrick's intent, and he didn't intend to carry out the threats. How do we know this? Well, Patrick didn't call back that night, and he didn't leave any more messages for the Congressman, and he wasn't arrested until six weeks later.

Now, when Patrick met the investigators two weeks after the initial call, he initially denied it, but ultimately he admitted what he did. He told the agents he was drunk and that he had no intention of carrying out the threat. He met

with the agents again on November 28, and again he admitted what he did. He was arrested on that day without incident, and the government talks about how there's no indication he has a problem with alcohol at all, but on the night of his arrest when he was booked into the justice center, he blew a .08, and that's documented in the records.

We submit that Patrick is not a danger to the community. The Court has a forensic psychological evaluation in its possession, and it's significant because probation asked for Patrick to undergo this evaluation, and Patrick readily agreed. Probation picked the doctor, not Patrick, and that forensic psychological opined that Patrick is not a danger.

And what's also significant is Patrick has never done anything like this before. He comes from a good home. He is a college graduate. The fact that he's articulate is not something that could be looked away and think, well, he wasn't drunk because he was articulate. He's articulate because he's educated and he's a college graduate. He has always had a job.

Now, the government has made much saying that the people who wrote the letters, they don't know who he really is. Truth in fact, we advised the people who wrote the letters, "Please don't talk about the nature of the crime. That's for the Court to determine. Talk about Patrick as he is as a person. Talk about how you know him."

Now, we're all aware in the present time that threats

have to be taken very seriously as many people actually carry out these threats, but those same people who carry out the threats, they give indicators to their friends and family of something, that something is amiss, that something is wrong, and people who know them well see something going on before those threats are actually carried out, and here we have just the opposite.

The Court has received numerous letters from friends, family, neighbors, clergy members, former employers, all attesting to Patrick's good character. All of these people have known Patrick for many, many years, and they see the good in him. They didn't mention anything about the alcohol or anything else because we told them, "Please do not talk about the nature of the offense."

A sentence of time served and probation is entirely reasonable under the circumstances for a 28-year-old man with no priors who may have an alcohol problem and he is incredibly remorseful for what he did. And having spent seven months in jail, that was quite a lesson for him. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Mr. Angelo, do you want to say anything before I impose sentence? You may, but you're not required to.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Go ahead.

THE DEFENDANT: I'd like to apologize to the Court and

to the government for any problems and worries and fears I may have caused. I'm very sorry, and none of this would have happened unless I was drinking. I apologize.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

The record should reflect that I have carefully reviewed all of the materials that have been submitted to me regarding this case. I find the conduct of Mr. Angelo in the case beyond troubling. There's something in our society about instilling fear in another person that is really almost like holding the person hostage, and in this case, not just holding the Congressman hostage, but his family hostage as well.

There's nothing about this case that in any way makes me look at you, Mr. Angelo, and feel that you didn't know what you were doing. I don't know if you were intoxicated that night. I'm not an intoxication specialist. I'm not an alcohol counselor. I can't discern whether or not somebody is intoxicated just by listening to the voice.

One could argue very strenuously that you were not intoxicated. As Mr. Gestring pointed out, your voice is solid. It's purposeful. It's definitely chilling. You have quite the vocabulary, and it's not often what a voice that someone might consider almost a caricature of someone who is intoxicated. But I can't answer that question. As a sentencing judge, I can't sit up here and say yes, you were intoxicated, or no, you weren't.

But I don't believe for a minute that you didn't know what you were saying, and I don't believe that your threat to Congressman Katko and his family was unintentional. And I think that if you're still thinking it was unintentional, you're in a state of denial. That threat was not unintentional. You may have had alcohol in you. Whether you were legally intoxicated, I don't know, but there's no way in my mind that that threat was unintentional.

No public servant should have to put up with this kind of nonsense. No person should have to put up with this kind of nonsense. Who in this room would want to be looking over their shoulder every day to wonder if somebody is coming to kill them? You know, when I met you several months ago, I felt that you might not understand what you did. I'm still not sure that you understand the harm that you did. Public servants have a right to do their job without constantly looking over their shoulder worried that someone is going to extinguish their life, and whenever you put the children of a public servant in play, it's even far worse.

And the fact of the matter is that in some respects, I agree with what Mr. Gestring said. I have a psychological report that quite honestly doesn't tell me very much about you. I have letters from your family that tell me that you were a nice child and a nice young adult and that you were able to hold a job. But I have to say there's much more about you that I

don't know than I do know, and I do find that concerning, to say the least.

On the other hand, you do have no criminal record. You have a criminal history category of 1. And your attorney is correct that in the weeks that ensued your vicious phone call to the Congressman, there's no evidence that you did anything to act on that call. There's no evidence that you did anything in furtherance of the intentions that you expressed in the call.

So to sum up what I think about this case, I think that what you did is beyond reprehensible. It was an assault on the Congressman's life. It was an assault on the life of his family, and in a larger sense, it was an assault on government. And it's a bizarre assault over net neutrality, which makes the phone call even more strange and disconcerting than it already is in my mind.

But just to be clear, I don't think it was unintentional. I want the record to reflect that. I think you absolutely, positively knew what you were doing. And if you're going to sit there and try to use alcohol as an excuse, time to look in the mirror. You may occasionally drink too much and you may have had alcohol to drink that night, but you knew exactly what you were saying and doing.

When you were first asked if you had made this call, as your attorney indicated and I know is the fact, you denied it. And it was only after you found out that the police were

onto something that you finally admitted what you had done. At one point, you denied that you have a problem with alcohol, but then when it becomes convenient for you to say that you made the phone call only because you were intoxicated, that's what you say.

So I think I have somebody in front of me for sentencing who either has a problem with alcohol that he won't acknowledge, or two, is a very manipulative, intelligent person who is trying to say that he has a problem with alcohol in order to convince me that you should get a lesser sentence. Both of those again are concerning to me.

As I said a moment ago, I have reviewed and considered all pertinent information including but not limited to the Presentence Investigation Report, the addendum, the plea agreement, submissions by counsel, the 2016 edition of the Sentencing Guidelines Manual, and the factors outlined in 18 United States Code Section 3553(a).

I adopt the factual information and the guideline applications contained in the Presentence Investigation Report. I find that the total offense level is 9. The criminal history category is 1, and the guideline imprisonment range is four to ten months. The guideline range is within zone B of the sentencing table. Please stand for your sentence, Mr. Angelo.

Upon your plea of guilty on count 1 of the information, it is the judgment of the Court that you are hereby

committed to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for a period of time served. I note for the record that you have been in custody since your arrest on November 28, 2017, and this sentence is sufficient but not greater than necessary to meet the goals of sentencing set forth in 18 United States Code Section 3553(a).

Upon your release from imprisonment, you shall be placed on supervised release for a term of three years. You need to listen carefully to this, and I know your attorney will go over it with you when I am finished because when I place conditions on someone, they are not light suggestions. They are orders. And you, sir, are going to be supervised for three years by probation. And if you violate any one of these terms, I personally would take about a nanosecond to issue a warrant for your arrest. So you need to understand that these are not suggestions.

While on supervised release, you shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime, and you shall comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this Court as well as the following special conditions which I find are necessary and justified in this case based upon the nature of the instant offense as well as the history and characteristics of the defendant as outlined in detail in the presentence report and to promote your rehabilitation.

First, you must participate in a program for substance

abuse, which shall include testing for the use of controlled substances, controlled substance analogues, and alcohol. This may include outpatient treatment as recommended by the treatment provider based upon your risks and needs.

You may also be required to participate in inpatient treatment upon recommendation of the treatment provider and upon approval of the Court. The probation office shall approve the location, frequency, and duration of outpatient treatment. You shall abide by the rules of any treatment program which may include abstaining from the use of any alcohol. You shall contribute to the cost of any evaluation and/or treatment in an amount to be determined by the probation officer based on your availability to pay and the availability of third-party payments.

You must participate in the mental health program, which may include medical, psychological, or psychiatric evaluation and outpatient treatment as recommended by the treatment provider based upon your risks and needs. You may also be required to participate in inpatient treatment upon recommendation of the treatment provider and upon approval of the Court. The probation office shall approve the location, frequency, and duration of outpatient treatment.

You must abide by the rules of the program, which may include taking medicine. You shall contribute to the cost of any evaluation and/or treatment in an amount to be determined by

the probation officer based on your ability to pay and the availability of third-party payments.

Based upon your substance abuse history and for the purpose of effective substance abuse treatment programming, you shall refrain from the use of alcohol and be subject to alcohol testing and treatment while under supervision.

While you are living within Congressman Katko's district, you must not communicate or otherwise interact with him or any member of his immediate family without first contacting the probation office. When you're no longer -- if you are no longer in that district, you must refrain from contacting Congressman Katko or any member of his immediate family or any member of his staff either directly or through someone else.

I find that based on your financial resources, projected earnings, and other income as well as your financial obligations, that you do have the ability to pay a fine. You must pay a fine in the amount of \$2,000 payable within 90 days of sentencing. You must also pay to the Clerk of the Court a special assessment of \$100, which is due and payable immediately.

Both parties have the right to appeal this sentence in certain limited circumstances except as restricted by any waiver stipulated in the plea agreement. You are advised to consult with your attorney to determine whether or not an appeal is

warranted. Any appeal must be filed within 14 days of the date that judgment is filed in this case. I note for the record that the defendant waived the right to appeal any sentence of ten months or less. You may be seated.

Is there anything further from the government?

MR. GESTRING: Your Honor, the United States would move to dismiss the underlying criminal complaint.

THE COURT: The underlying criminal complaint is dismissed.

MR. GESTRING: Thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: Anything further from the defense?

MS. BIANCO: No, Your Honor, thank you.

THE COURT: Let me just say a few parting words to you, Mr. Angelo. One can only hope that seven months in the county jail is sufficient deterrence for you for any further ridiculous, unacceptable conduct like this. I know family members are here. I'm not blaming the family members. You are an adult, and your family is very supportive obviously.

But I hope your friends and your family know how serious what you did is, and I hope you and your support network know that in my view, there should be zero tolerance for you violating any of the terms of the supervised release. You are a young man. You have your entire lifetime in front of you. Unfortunately now you're a convicted felon, but people make mistakes. Can you fix this and live a law-abiding life and do

good? Yes, you can, but it's going to be up to you now.

As an operation of law, I want you to know that you can't have any firearms anymore because you're a convicted felon. That's not a condition that I'm putting on you. That's just the operation of law because I know that you did have a long gun at one time in your house.

Any family members or friends who ever become aware of you having a firearm, they need to report that. The threat that you made to kill a United States Congressman is so concerning that you absolutely, positively cannot be in possession of a firearm any time in the future, even though you didn't act upon this threat in the months that went by.

Is there anything further for the defense?

MS. BIANCO: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Court stands adjourned.

(The matter adjourned at 12:39 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

I, JACQUELINE STROFFOLINO, RPR, Official Court Reporter, in and for the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York, do hereby certify that pursuant to Section 753, Title 28, United States Code, that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the stenographically reported proceedings held in the above-entitled matter and that the transcript page format is in conformance with the regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2018.

/s/ JACQUELINE STROFFOLINO

JACQUELINE STROFFOLINO, RPR

FEDERAL OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER